### EPI Update for Friday, August 10, 2012 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

### Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Additional H3N2v cases identified in other states
- Norovirus activity in Iowa
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

#### Additional H3N2v cases identified in other states

Approximately 150 cases of influenza A H3N2v virus have been identified so far this year in the U.S. Almost all have experienced mild illness, with two hospitalizations and no deaths reported. Most of the cases are occurring in children with direct and indirect contact with swine. No cases have been identified in lowa this summer.

Influenza surveillance is a year-round activity and laboratories are encouraged to submit any rapid test positive influenza tests to SHL for further testing and subtyping. Specimens from patients who are hospitalized for influenza-like illness should also be submitted, regardless of rapid influenza test results. For questions on specimen submission and testing, call 319-335-4500 or visit <a href="https://www.shl.uiowa.edu/services/influenza">www.shl.uiowa.edu/services/influenza</a>.

#### Norovirus activity in Iowa

Over the last week, several outbreaks likely caused by norovirus have occurred in lowa (investigations are ongoing). The outbreak situations include cases among employees and residents of a long term care facility, and illnesses traced back to a family reunion. Norovirus is the most common cause of diarrheal outbreaks in lowa.

To reduce the risk of spreading the virus, remind patients presenting with symptoms of norovirus to wash their hands frequently, especially after using the bathroom, and refrain from preparing food for anyone else.

Those in certain high-risk occupations (food handlers, healthcare providers, childcare providers) should not work while ill. Note: people can remain infectious after recovering from the illness, so individuals in these occupations should not return to work until 48 hours after symptoms have ended.

While individual cases of norovirus are not reportable in lowa, all outbreaks must be reported. If you suspect an outbreak may be occurring, please collect stool samples from patients and contact public health immediately.

# **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**None

# Have a healthy and happy week! Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736